MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE MUSHROOM GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

## 

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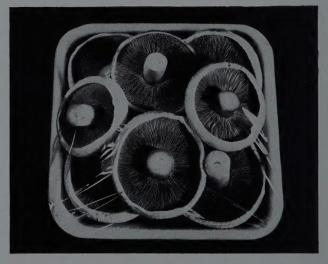
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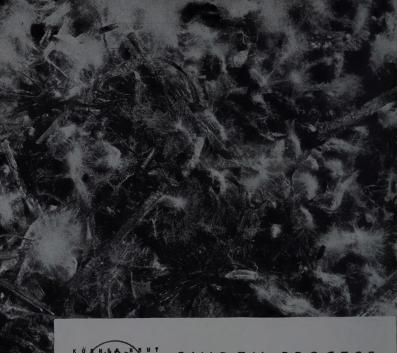
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No responsibility can be accepted by the Editor, the Editorial Board, or the Mushroom Growers' Association for statements made or views expressed in this Bulletin, or for any advertisements included in this publication.

#### **EDITORIAL**

#### NO OTHER ROAD

Any mushroom grower who doubts the tremendous pulling power of publicity and who has followed the affairs of the Potato Marketing Board, must find himself with all his previous doubts on publicity dispelled, by the election to the Board of Mr. Jack Merricks, who has continually championed the alleged cause of the growers against the Board.

It is not for me here to venture any opinion on the merits or otherwise of either the Board or Mr. Merricks, although I may perhaps be permitted a sigh of relief that Mr. Merricks does not grow mushrooms.

It is with Publicity, this month, that this Editorial is concerned and on which the prosperity of the industry may well depend.

Last month the Milk Marketing Board were able to announce the additional payment of 3d. per gallon (2d. in October) to producers, mainly because the liquid consumption of milk had increased to a figure higher than was estimated and the production had not reached the estimated record figure although running at a higher level than last year. The Egg Marketing Board, with its gigantic publicity programme—around about £750,000 last year I gather—was able to pay the egg producers 3d. per dozen more than the guaranteed price and was able to return to the Government, in unwanted subsidy, the staggering sum of £1,700,000. Now, to add strength to the publicity fire Mr. Merricks gets a seat—maybe a hot one at that—on the Potato Board, not because (in my opinion) of any personal publicity campaign which he carried out, but because of the publicity he received at the hands of the National Press.

Now, into the publicity field jump the flower people with a voluntary scheme to raise something like £50,000 and there is every prospect of this figure being reached.

Milk, eggs and flowers, to mention only a few, each seeking to persuade the housewife to spend that little extra out of the weekly allowance, that little extra at the expense of something else.

It is up to the mushroom grower to see that the MGA Publicity

Scheme, already being supported by about 77% of the growers, does not fail. Those already supporting should do their utmost to persuade those outside to come inside and pay their whack. A figure of 77% is, perhaps, not too bad but it certainly ought to be 100%.

It is true that if everyone gave up publicity and let the public have free and unfettered choice, the mushroom might survive but, squeezed between giants, it must simply fight for survival. There is no other road to prosperity.

WRA

## CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS USED IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD STORAGE

Recommendations for Safe Use in Great Britain

MALATHION (Stored products use.)

Protection of Operators

 Distributors are requested to include the following voluntary precautions on their labels of malathion preparations intended for use in storage premises:

Emulsion concentrates and water dispersible powder concentrates

Avoid contact of the concentrate with the skin.

Avoid prolonged breathing of the spray mist.

Wash thoroughly after use.

Dusting powders (ready for use)

Avoid inhaling the dust.

Wash thoroughly after use.

#### **Protection of Consumers**

- 2. On present information there should be no hazard to consumers from the use of malathion:
  - (a) by admixture with raw unprocessed grains and oilseeds, provided the dosages do not exceed 10 oz. of malathion (for example, 60 lb. of 1% dust or 2 gallons of 3% emulsion) per 1,000 bushels.
  - (b) by addition to the surface of bulk grains or oilseeds, provided the dosages do not exceed 5 oz. of malathion (for example, 30 lb. of 1% dust or 1 gallon of 3% emulsion) per 1,000 sq. ft. of surface.
  - (c) by the application of an emulsion or suspension of malathion in water on:
    - (i) the surfaces of stacks of raw grains and oilseeds contained in closely woven sacks of jute or similar fabric, provided the dosage does not exceed 114 mg. malathion per sq. ft. of surface;
    - (ii) the walls and other surfaces of storage rooms where foodstuffs do not normally come into contact with treated surfaces;
    - (iii) the walls of empty wagons and storage bins used for raw grains and oilseeds; and
    - (iv) the surfaces of stacks of foodstuffs in containers of wood, fibre board and similar materials.

October, 1958.

Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food,
5/8 St. Andrew's Place,
Regent's Park,

EGENT'S PARK, LONDON, N.W.1.

## FOURTH INTERNATIONAL MUSHROOM CONGRESS

The theme of the Fourth International Mushroom Congress to be held in Copenhagen from 18th to 26th July, 1959, will be:—

"On a better understanding of the cultivated mushroom"

It is a great pleasure for *Denmark* and particularly for *Danish Mushroom Research Centre* at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in co-operation with the *Danish Mushroom Industry* and the *International Commission Mushroom Science* to invite everyone interested to attend the Copenhagen Congress.

It is hoped, that as many delegates as possible from all over the world will take part so that the congress will be really useful.

The detailed programme will be published in the spring of 1959,

but the preliminary programme is:
Saturday, 18 July Official opening, lunch, demonstrations and discussions in the experiment station's compost shed and mushroom houses.

Sunday. 19 ... Free.

Sunday, 19 ,, Monday, 20 ,, Tuesday, 21 ,, Wednesday, 22 ,, Thursday, 23 ,, Friday, 24 ,,

Lectures (simultaneous interpretation through earphones, French, German, English, Danish).

Visits to mushroom farms and the Tuborg or Carlsberg brewery.

Saturday, 25 , Visits to mushrooms farms, the Danish Royal Porcelain factory and to Frederiksborg Castle.

Sunday, 26 , Visits to mushroom farms in Sweden. Closing banquet in Copenhagen.

Every effort is being made to organize a Congress of the highest standard in order to continue the line of development established by the three previous congresses in England (1950), in Belgium (1953) and France (1956). A great number of personalities in the world's mushroom industry and research centres will present papers.

It is the intention of the organizing committee that all delegates shall receive preprints of the full papers plus a three—language summary a fortnight before the opening of the congress, to enable the delegates to prepare questions for the discussion after each lecture. It may also be mentioned that during the four lecture days, simultaneous interpretation through earphones in the three official languages (English, French, German) will be given.

The organizing committee propose to arrange a special exhibition of photographs of all aspects of mushroom growing and everyone is invited to compete. Prizes will be offered for the best photographs.

Each lecture day should finish with one or two mushroom films and the best one will also be awarded a prize.

If a sufficient number of non-participating ladies come to Copenhagen, special excursions will be arranged for them.

Enclosed is an application form. You may not be ready to decide to-day whether you will attend the congress or not. However, if you



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are interested, although undecided, send the MGA Secretary the form only partly filled in. In the Spring another form will be sent asking you to say whether or not you will be coming.

It should be mentioned that it has not been possible to obtain a grant from the Danish government because of the present economic situation, but the Danish Mushroom Industry will be contributing 70% of the total budget.

It is our pleasure to extend to you this invitation to participate in the 4th International Mushroom Congress in Copenhagen, where you will meet old and new friends and colleagues from all over the world. You have heard of "Wonderful Copenhagen"—why not bring your family with you?

C. Riber Rasmussen.
Secretary-General.

Secretariat: 4th International Mushroom Congress. Rolighedsvej 23, Copenhagen V.

#### NEW WAGE RATES

Details of the new wage rates confirmed by the Board at its meeting on 7th October. Please keep these figures by you. They apply to all counties in England & Wales except Cambridge and the Isle of Ely, the Holland Division of Lincolnshire, and Yorkshire.

BAAT	EC	47	HIO	CII	WEEK
MAL	ES	4/	HO	$\cup K$	WEEK

					Weekly Rates		Hourly	Rates	Overtim	e Rates
					s. c	i.	s.	d.	s.	d.
20	and	over			156	0	3	4	5	0
19	and	under	20		132	6	2	10	4	3
18	,,	,,	19		113	0	2	5	3	7
17	99	22	18		96	6	2	1	3	1
16	,,	**	17		82	6	1	9	2	8
15	99	22	16		72	0	1	7	2	4
FEMA	LES-	_47 H	OUR	WEEK	<b>:</b>					
21	and	over			118	6	2	7	3	9
18	and	under	21		109	0	2	4	3	6
17	,,	,,	18		92	0	2	0	2	11
16	99	,,	17		76	6	1	8	2	5
15	22	99	16		64	0	1	5	2	1
<b>FEMA</b>	LES-	_44 H	OUR	WEEK	(:					
21	and	over			111	0	2	7	3	9
18	and	under	21		102	0	2	4	3	6
17	22	22	18		86	0	2	0	2	11
16	99	22	17		71	6	1	8	2	5
15	99	39	16		60	0	1	5	2	1

These rates operated as from 27th October (week commencing).

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. J. H. Scrimgeour has discourteously dragged ny name into a controversy of his own manufacture without consulting me, and my first knowledge of this letter was obtained from the Bulletin.

I endorse Fred Atkins' remarks to the full. I consider the whole affair to be unnecessary and thoroughly discourteous to a guest to this country and I have already written to apologise personally to Fred Atkins and Leon Kneebone for Mr. Scrimgeour's letter.

I would like to add that, having attended a multitude of lectures in my time, most of which were "a sleep and a forgetting", Leon Kneebone's discourse came as a model of what a lecture should be. I also count as a rewarding experience the time I subsequently spent in his company.

F. C. Wood.

#### MUSHROOM CALYPSO

To Mr. Atkins we dedicate this Calypso: He whose moustache adorns his upper lip so. A leader of men who devote themselves. To growing mushrooms on trays and shelves; Entitled, we believe, to a Professorial Robe As energetically he trots the Globe, Diligently analysing each fact and figure To make our pounds per square foot bigger; Renowned for things alphabetically filed, Finds himself father of teen-age child—A teen-age child known as M.G.A.; To this Father-Cum-Architect F.C.A. Whose pioneering is laden with zip so, We sincerely dedicate this Christmas Calypso.

F.P.

#### FANCY THAT!

It was recently suggested that some small recognition of Past MGA Chairmen should be made—maybe in the form of a badge, a paper weight or something similar.

Your friend and my friend, Stanley Middlebrook, in turning down the idea writes:...... For my part I couldn't care less. I hate any form of badge and an old steam valve, a sample of dried blood, the telephone or a pot of tea seem quite capable of holding down my papers. When they rise to a height of six feet on my desk they seem to have a habit of holding themselves. down. Occasionally the top one wafts away and is lost, but what is one among so many? And who cares anyway? Is there a virtue in being a Past Chairman? In most cases we would be inviting brickbats if we advertise the fact.

Capt. G. P. Lawrence didn't very much like the idea either and he wrote:.....it is a generous thought on the part of some people but I would let sleeping dogs lie. In any case, the lined face, the grey hairs and the stooping shamble of any ex-Chairman clearly denotes that he has been a Chairman.



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#### WORLD'S PRESS DIGEST

The mushroom trade had been gradually falling, which was more than could be said of the consignments (Nurseryman Seedsman, October 2/58). Mushrooms are undergoing one of their quiet spells (Grower, October 4/58). Mushrooms are a little more plentiful, but the bulk of arrivals are too open to command the top prices (Fruit Trades' Journal, October 11/58). After Tuesday's heavy arrivals, the trade begins to react more favourably (Fruit Trades' Journal, October 18/58). A heavier weight of mushrooms is now on offer and prices have tended to fall, indicating that there is even a limit to the quantity that Covent Garden can absorb at fair prices (Fruit Trades' Journal, October 25/58).

Growers ask, "Why won't salesmen take mushrooms with the stalks on?" Salesmen reply that their buyers won't have them that way, as the public think they are being cheated. Grower, October 25/58.

In Covent Garden, **buttons** get on average 6d./lb. more than **cups**: but in some other markets it is the reverse. Buttons, say the West End trade, look better, and are more protected against dust and dirt. Cups, say other greengrocers, look far better value for the money.

Grower, October 25/58.

One of the greatest achievements for growers accomplished by Walter Maule occurred during World War II when, armed with factual information, he requested the U.S. Government to consider mushrooms an essential war food crop because mushrooms were found to be high in certain vitamins as proved by research at Massachusetts State College and Texas University. The mushroom industry was subsequently designated as "essential" and materials and supplies were allocated for its use.

AMI's Mushroom News, September/58.

Much of the trouble for which dusting machinery has been blamed could be overcome if the **dust** were supplied broken down in small amounts in sealed plastic bags holding roughly the amount required to fill the container of the machine. This, suggested Mr. A. E. H. Higgins, of the Colonial Spraying Machine Centre, would avoid serious deterioration of the dust; no machine, however well designed, will cope with a dank, caked mass.

\*\*Grower\*\*, October 25 58.\*\*

Mr. G. W. Stewart (East Kent Packers Ltd.) said that the fact that sub-standard fruit gave a return at all was due to wholesalers "averaging". This was done by telling the producer that his low-grade fruit was making a better price than it actually did by transferring part of the price of his good fruit to his bad fruit. If there was no sub-standard fruit, good fruit would command higher prices. *Grower*, October 25 58.

A big increase in the demand for vegetables for **processing** is coming along in East Anglia, with extensive developments by a large firm. It looks like good business for growers. We feel, however, that the growers in the area would be well advised to get together on the matter of contracts. We suggest that NFU branches in the area should consider a get-together in the idea of setting up a joint contracting committee—which, indeed, could be the start of an organisation covering the whole country.

\*\*Grower\*\*, October 25/58.\*\*

The authors attribute Mummy Disease, excrescences and albino forms of mushrooms to virus infection. Tissue from diseased mushrooms, inoculated to healthy ones, reproduced the symptoms of Mummy Disease. Further studies are in process.

Blattny, C., and Pilat, A.: "The possibility of existence of viruses

in mushrooms", in Ces. Mykol, 11, pp. 205-210, 1957.

Among the **predactious fungi** which attack nematodes in soil, certain Arthrobotrys and Dactylella species have received much attention. By contrast, no experimental work has been done so far with those fungi which infect nematodes by means of specialized conidiospores and kill them though the endozoic mycelium which develops from these spores within the host's body cavity. The conidiospores of Harposporium anguillulae appear to enter the eelworm host by the oral route: no signs were found which indicated an invasion of the eelworm through the outer integument. If the swallowing of a conidiospore is essential in order that host be infected with the fungus, then sucking species should be resistant to this type of infection since they do not swallow solid food. Most economically important species of eelworm are found among the sucking nematodes and obviously no successful biological control may be expected from the use for this purpose of H. anguillulae or of other fungi with a similar mechanism of infection.

\*M. Aschner & S. Kohn in Journal of General Microbiology, August/58.

The majority of housewives and café proprietors do not know that slices of raw mushrooms can enhance salads. If our **propaganda in June and July** each year was concentrated on this one facet of mushroom eating only, I am convinced it would have tremendous results.

Robert Patterson in *Commercial Grower*, October 24/58.

Mushrooms make their first appearance in stamp designs as Roumania releases a series of ten values picturing ten varieties of edible fungi. The *Psalliota campestris* is 1.55 lei, dark grey, yellow grey and red. Poland also has announced plans for release of a series of **stamps picturing mushrooms**, but no word has come from Warsaw as to when the set may be expected.

An undated cutting from an American (?) stamp journal received October/58.

Mushrooms are the latest crop from Windsor Castle's gardens to be regularly marketed at Covent Garden. Profits from Royal produce sales have increased enormously under Prince Philip's businesslike eye.

Woman, September 27/58.

Latest addition to the Chesswood range is their dehydrated mushroom soup. Packed in Tripolam XI foil and printed in four colouts, it is a useful extra revenue builder for self-service promotion. It was designed and printed by the Metal Box Co., who also provide the cans for Messrs. Linfield's other products.

Self Service Times, October/58.

In Taunton there is a proposal to find means for marketing produce direct from grower to public. It is proposed to form a Federation of growers for the purpose. The premises will be in the shopping centre Fruit Trades' Journal, September 27/58. of Taunton.

Progress in plant breeding has been so rapid of latter years that . . . we are fortunate nowadays in having a national system of comparing different varities by the work of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany. The most likely "winners" are taken from the hundreds of new breedings from all over the world and are grown in trial at Cambridge. The best of these are then put out to the NAAS to grow in field plots by kind co-operation of farmers. Subsequently the NIAB issue the results as "recommended" varieties set out in excellent free leaflets. These show not only the best for yield and quality but such details as size of grain, standing capacity and disease resistance.

G. A. Dowse in Kent Farmers Day by Day, Summer/58.

There is great scope for increased use of cooling plant. There is ample evidence that the early removal of field heat can do much to increase shelf life of vegetables.

C. H. Bulmer, of P.A.T.R.A., in Grower, October 4/58.

One of the major firms growing carnations in England is Pollards Nurseries, of Cheshunt. In April this year, Mr. Stuart Pollard went to America to see if air conditioning and cooling could be of use in this country. He found that at least seven methods of cooling were being used. Cornell University had tried them all. To bring the temperature down they found the pad and fan method best. On his return to England, Mr. Pollard decided to try it. His experience is described in three illustrated pages. Ronald Webber in Grower, October 11/58.

Building costs have risen to a point at which it is sheer nonsense to muddle along. An architect has the advantage of seeing the problem in perspective. He is there to help and save money. Why not use him? Agriculture, October/58.

The cost of marketing fruit and vegetables, according to the recent report of the Runciman Committee, adds approximately 50 per cent. to the price received by the farmer. Of this, about one-half goes in wholesaling and one-half in retailing.

G. Hallett & E. A. Attwood in Agriculture, October/58.

The Holmes-Schneible Multi-Wash System is applicable to a wide range of dust collection and control problems involving liquid and solid particles. The multi-wash collector has an efficiency of the order of 99% for all particles above 3 to 4 microns. It is available from W. C. Holmes & Co. Ltd.

Heating & Ventilating Equipment Digest, September/58.

I don't think that a special cut-price Fruit Week would do a thing for the trade except that everyone's takings would be much smaller . . . but a special super-quality Fruit Week, with all the rubbish being eaten on the farms that grew it . . . that would really wake things up a bit. However much one likes to keep an eye on the ticket, there are some lines where quality is a far better selling point than price.

# You can make better compost more quickly and reliably-with ADCO 'M'

SPECIAL MUSHROOM COMPOST ACTIVATOR GIVES
HIGHER FERMENTATION TEMPERATURES, AND A FIRST
CLASS COMPOST THAT ASSISTS THE SPAWN RUN

MANY ADVANTAGES are gained by using Adco "M" as an activator in composting. Chief among them is the higher temperature attained both in the compost heap and in the beds during the peak heating process. Look at the results that follow from these higher temperatures.

First of all, fermentation goes ahead at a faster rate. Composting takes less time and the finished product is ready earlier.

Secondly, you have greater assurance that your crop will be free of pests and disease. The higher temperature either kills off the pests inside the heap or drives them to the surface, where they can be dealt with by insecticides. High temperatures during fermentation are particularly vital in preventing disease such as Vert-de-gris, of which there is special danger when composting during the winter months.

#### More nourishment

If you use Racing Stable manure, or other manure in which excess straw is present, the use of Adco "M" is strongly advised. The fermentation of this type of manure takes place more rapidly and effectively when Adco "M" is added. You get a more thorough breakdown of the strawy material, which then becomes available as food for the growing spawn. So your compost provides more nourishment for the mushrooms, and you get a bigger crop.

#### Better spawn run

Adco "M" produces a good quality compost of even texture. It provides an

ideal medium for spawn run and helps to avoid greasy conditions, lack of aeration, and over wet compost – all of which delay mycelium growth. The spawn is able to make more rapid use of the food provided. It establishes itself more quickly and this is again a great help in preventing diseases and weed fungi. The faster the spawn grows and fills the compost the less likelihood is there of disease and weed fungi becoming serious competitors. A quick spawn growth also gives a quicker ultimate production.

You can have freedom from uncertainty in the composting process – by using Adoc "M". It will pay you hands down. Adoc "M" is specially formulated as a result of years of experiment, for the specific purpose of making mushroom compost. It can be used for composting with straw alone, if you wish. Or it can be used to compensate for variations in the quality and texture of your manure supply. Adoc "M" provides the way to better mushroom compost every time.

Post this coupon for full details							
Adco Limited, Harpenden, Herts							
Please send me your leaflet giving full details of Adco "M".							
NAME .							
ADDRESS							

Thiram sprays give good control of Botiytis (cinerea) on lettuce in frames, while Tecnazene dust worked into the soil before planting is almost as effective.

J. M. Way in 1957, Report of National Vegetable Research Station, Warwick.

The comparatively recent development of quick-growing varieties and the demand brought by American servicemen and their families in this country has established sweetcorn as a commercial crop in the South of England. Smedley's have over 100 acres under contract in Kent this year, destined for their deep-freeze plant. The demand for fresh cobs is relatively small but is increasing steadily.

Commercial Grower, October 10/58.

Over a thousand independent retail pharmacists have formed their own wholesaling organisation. This uses the profits to provide extra services for its members.

B. M. Rusling in Sunday Times, November 2/58.

Increased productivity can be gained only by reducing the effort of the operative, by reducing the sweat and toil and not, as in former times, by increasing them.

Viscount Chandos in Sunday Times, October 26/58.

One must never be drawn off the job in hand by gratuitous advice from those who are not fully in the operational picture and have no responsibility. Viscount Montgomery in his *Memoirs*, November/58.

The from us new producted, against rust whole insensible, wholeglass-puncture-thermometer was accepted with enthusiasms by the experts. What is the most important, it is whole immun against all the the acids who fashions on the fostering soil. Very easy you can introduce the thermometer in the manure through a succession of ligth pushes. Circular distributed by Afriso-Werk, Guglingen/Wurtt, Germany, October/58.

#### References:

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Agriculture, H.M.S.O., York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

Agricultural & Horticultural Engineering Abstracts, National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Wrest Park, Silsoe, Beds.

AMI's Mushroom News, 20 West State Street, Avondale, Pennsylvania, U.S.A Annals of Applied Biology, Cambridge University Press, Bentley House, 200 Euston Road, London, N.W.I.

Commercial Grower, 154 Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.

Darlington's Mushroom News, Southcourt Road, Worthing, Sussex, England. Digest of Equipment, 3 Cranston Drive, East Didsbury, Manchester 20.

Farm Implement Machinery Review, 9 The Broadway, Woodford Green, Essex. Food Investigation, H.M.S.O., York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

Fruit Trades' Journal, 6/7 Gough Square, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

Grower, 49 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1.

Horticultural Abstracts, Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Farnham Royal. Industrial Equipment News, 33 Tothill Street, London, S.W.1.

Nurseryman, Seedsman & Glasshouse Grower, 62 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1.

Packaged Food Selling, 110 Fleet Street, London, S.W.1.

Safety Equipment & Industrial Clothing, 9 Gough Square, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.

Transactions of the British Mycological Society, Cambridge University Press, Bentley House, 200 Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

U.S. Plant Disease Reporter, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland, U.S.A.

U.S. Plant Disease Reporter, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland, U.S.A.

## 99.9 COMPOST MAKER

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A good spawn run does not always mean a good crop but the possibility is greatly improved if a **BLOOD BASED** Activator is used.

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#### MUSHROOMS IN TANKS

Scientists at the Cambridge Low Temperature Research Station of DSIR have been investigating an alternative "chemical farm" to the now familiar tank culture of algæ. The process consists in growing mushroom mycelium—that is, the mass of white threads which form the body of mushroom and other edible fungi-in a deep culture tank, in a manner similar to that used for growing penicillin.

This idea, which has been investigated by a number of different workers, is attractive because the product is closely related to ordinary mushrooms and is therefore known to be non-poisonous and will be more readily accepted than an entirely new foodstuff such as dried algæ. In fact the dried pulverised mushroom mycelium might replace mushroom powder (used in soups and other preparations) which sells at about 10s. a pound.

The mycelium is grown at 25° C. in a medium containing urea, glucose, vitamins and dried decayed yeast. The yield after 19-24 days is between 15 and 30 grams per litre.

The main difficulty has been that the mycelium is usually tasteless and odourless. Even Coprinus comatus, which has a strong mushroom flavour when grown on the surface of a culture, becomes tasteless and uninteresting in deep culture. B. P. Eddy describes in the Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture (Vol. 9, p. 644) how different mushroom-like fungi were tested to find one which tasted as it should. The fungi would not oblige with a proper smell or taste when grown in this way.

The majority had little taste, although one, Pleurotus ostreatus, had a bitterish taste with "apple-like overtones". Another fungus smelt like peaches and another like toffee. It appeared that the mycelium could be grown in this way for about 11s. a pound, roughly the same price as mushroom powder.

Experiments have also been carried out in growing edible woodrotting fungi in this way, since there is a large amount of lignin waste produced by paper mills and rayon factories which could be used as a culture medium. Results have been even less promising, although S. S. Block claims to have succeeded in growing one fungus on beds of sawdust and believes that they might be grown more cheaply than cultivated mushrooms; however, it seems that the mushroom growers have little cause to fear the chemical farmers at the moment.

\*Reprinted from the New Scientist, London, 30th October, 1958.

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The Grower of this crop says-

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We use only synthetic composts here and these are prepared from wheat straw, activated with a MRA formula which you supply. The composting is done with the aid of a Hawkomatic Compost Maker, and with this machine we are able to control exactly the amount of water introduced and also to ensure a very even spread of activator on the straw. We believe both factors to be of great importance in the preparation of the compost.

We grow on shelf beds and have so far used Mount Spawn in all our crops but one. Another example of a recent good crop was 2.75 lbs. per sq. ft. in ten weeks.

Extract of recent letter received.

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## DON'T FORGET THOSE APRONS

As part of the Publicity Campaign the MGA, borrowing an idea from the American Mushroom Industry, is to distribute the aprons depicted in the November Bulletin. In America some excellent publicity has been obtained by this method and good results are hoped for in this country. The aprons are in blue. Members may feel, with the approach of Christmas, that gifts of this kind might well be acceptable to their friends and these aprons, can be obtained from the MGA Office, at 15/6d. each.



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#### PROCESSING QUESTIONNAIRE

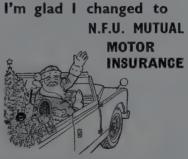
The response to the processing questionnaire, sent to all Grower Members, has been somewhat disappointing, with some 67 replies so far received.

These replies are now being analysed by Dr. R. L. Edwards but, in order to complete an accurate picture of the industry within the United Kingdom, as it stands to-day, and in order to reach a true assessment of the position in relation to the need for a processing plant, many more replies are needed.

If you are one of those members who has not yet completed the questionnaire will you please **do so right away**. If, for one reason or another, you are not able to answer all the questions, deal with those for which you can give figures even though those figures may only be your total production for this year and your production for 1957.

For far too long the exact total production of mushrooms in the United Kingdom in a complete year has never been known, although frequently required—required for instance in all dealings with the Ministry of Agriculture. Please then fill in the form, just as soon as you are able, and return it to the MGA Secretary.

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#### DID YOU KNOW?

No Need to "Reel"

The Adelaide Advertiser, writing about mushrooms says "Some of the biggest come from Kangeroo Island. Other huge ones, sometimes seen in the city parklands, are luminous at night—really luminous, causing unsuspecting strollers to start back in fright.

Up to 6,300 people can eat at any one time in Lyons Corner Houses and that Lyons use one and a half tons of mushrooms every week . . . The *Evening Standard* says.

In the same issue (19th November, 1958), Beverley Nichols wrote... "Food bores are probably the ghastliest bores of all. You know the sort I mean—the men who suddenly thrust aside a menu and observe: Of course, the only place where one can get an eatable steak with mushrooms, is Vienna. It's a little place just behind the Cathedral and I believe they do something extraordinary to the bulls. The mushrooms, naturally, as picked by moonlight."

The champion sandwich maker in the United States is Lloyd W. Rock, aged 28, from Kentucky. He has been visting England for a month. His champion sandwich is "Pan Fried Fillet of Beef" and it includes a sherry wine sauce with butter and mushrooms to accentuate the tenderness and the flavour of the beef—poured hot over all.



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#### LOSS OF WEIGHT

Some little time ago, at the Editor's request, Noble Mushrooms Ltd., of Yaxley, Peterborough, carried out an experiment regarding the loss of weight of mushrooms by evaporation.

#### Writes Fred. C. Atkins:-

As requested, exactly one pound of freshly-picked mushrooms was packed in a standard one-pound cardboard chip, complete with cover, and placed in my office. The afternoon temperatures in my office have all been around 70 degrees Fahr., and the Relative Humidity around 75%.

After 24 hours the net weight was  $15\frac{1}{2}$  oz. ,, 72 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,  $13\frac{1}{2}$  oz. ,, 96 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  oz.

The net loss of weight was 3% after one day, 9% after two, 16% after three, and 22% after four. In view of the prevailing conditions, you might regard these as near maximum.

## PUBLICITY BASH . . .

### IN BELGIUM





IN THESE PICTURES OF MUSHROOM PUBLICITY IN BRUSSELS. THE MOTIVE POWER IS SUPP-LIED BY M. GUY DE MAN, MGA MEMBER AND WELL KNOWN IN ENG-LAND.

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#### \*Spawn Merchants:---

Monlough Food Production Co. Ltd., Ballygowan, Belfast. S. A. F. Sampson Ltd., Oving, Chichester, Sussex. Pinkerton's Scottish Mushroom Laboratories, Millerston, Glasgow. H. Mount & Sons Ltd., Littlebourne, Canterbury, Kent. W. Darlington & Sons Ltd., Southcourt Road, Worthing, Sussex. Geo. Monro Ltd., Hertford Road, Waltham Cross, Herts. Godson & Mallard Ltd., Ferringham Lane, Ferring, Sussex.

\*Amounts collected by spawn merchants are not for publication.

Sundriesmen:—	£	s.	d.
Shirley Organics Ltd., Vicarage Wharf, Battersea, S.W.11 (activators) D. C. Bushell & Co. Ltd., Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey (manure	25	0	0
merchants)	10	10	0
activators, sundries)	10	10	0
Stable Manures Ltd., Newmarket and Worthing	40	0	0
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F. Gough & Son Ltd., Fishergate, Norwich	10	10	0

#### LAST MONTH'S PUBLICITY CONTRIBUTIONS

†\*Spawn Merchants:-

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Salesmen:—	£	s.	d.
†C. Snowdon & Co. Ltd., Castlefolds Market, Sheffield	3	7	9
†Reuben Levy Ltd., 88 Spitalfields Market, London, S.E.1	2	1	5

\*Amounts collected by spawn merchants are not for publication.

†Previous contributions already acknowledged.

#### FANCY THAT!

#### Trays or Shelves?

According to *Reveille*, certain kinds of ants have been cultivating mushrooms for millions of years, 20 feet down in the earth.

They prepare chambers as large as footballs. Then the workers go out and each brings back a piece of leaf which is chewed up to form the compost. The fungus spores are already on the leaves but there may be many kinds and the ants in charge of the hotbed weed out all except the variety they require. A mushroom or toadstool is only the fruit of the fungus. The real fungus, the body of it so to speak, is the tangle of white threads that we call spawn (says Reveille).

#### Getting Around

Did you notice the small advertisements in the September issue of the *Bulletin*? Did you read about that Farm for sale in France, the man from Portugal who wanted a job, the 31 year old German gardener anxious to work on a farm in the U.K. for six months?

Did you read, in the October issue, about what is going on in France, in America, in Poland and in Australia? Did you read, about the Moscow meeting and of the East German get together? What about the man from the U.K. who wants a job in Germany?

Well, well, we do get about.

## What is the most quoted paper?

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(zineb)

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For dusting use 8-12 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. Apply after casing and give 2 further dustings between breaks. Alternatively use 4 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. for regular weekly applications. 1 lb. 5/6 7 lb. £1 6. 3, 14 lb. £2 10. 2, 28 lb. £4 15. 8, 56 lb. £9 2. 0.



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Brown's Engineering Works (Loughton) Ltd. (Agricultural Division), 250 High Road, Loughton.

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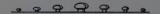
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